



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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Pale Green Pinion Moth

Lithophane viridipallens

State Status: **Special Concern**

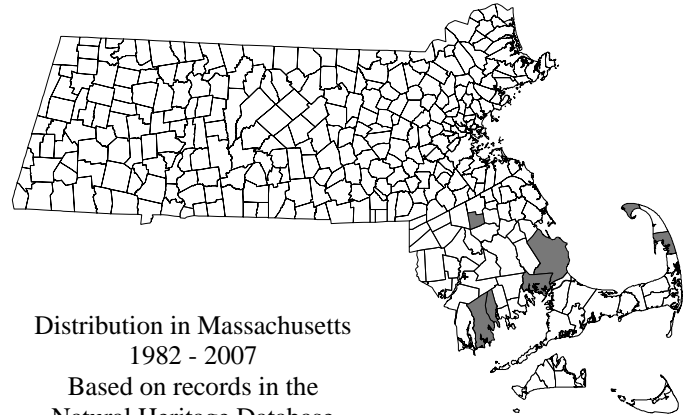
Federal Status: None

Description: The Pale Green Pinion is a noctuid moth. The forewings are pale, silvery gray with a greenish hue, the area between the reniform and orbicular spots shaded with black; the hind wings are nondescript, grayish-brown in color. Wingspan is 38-42 mm.

Habitat: In Massachusetts, the Pale Green Pinion Moth inhabits acidic, shrubby wetlands on the coastal plain, including wooded swamps, shrub swamps, shrubby bogs, and coastal plain pondshores.

Life History: Adult moths emerge in October and early November and overwinter, flying on warm nights in late winter and early spring. Eggs are laid in spring on the larval host plants, which have not been documented in Massachusetts, but probably include a variety of acidic wetland shrubs such as holly (*Ilex*), chokeberry (*Aronia*), sweet pepper-bush (*Clethra alnifolia*), swamp-fetterbush (*Leucothoe racemosa*), maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina*), and highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*). Larvae feed from late April through early June; pupae diapause through the summer and early fall.

Range: The Pale Green Pinion is spottily distributed along the coastal plain from southern New England south to New Jersey, with a more continuous range along the coastal plain from southern New Jersey south to Florida and west to Texas. In Massachusetts this species occurs on the coastal plain in the southeast part of the state.



Adult Flight Period in Massachusetts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Threats

- Habitat loss
- Hydrologic alteration
- Invasion by exotic plants
- Introduced generalist parasitoids
- Insecticide spraying
- Light pollution